

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
HA-05 MCT-01 /072 W  
-----039532 200617Z /23  
R 171440Z MAY 78  
FM AMCONSUL MILAN  
TO AMEMBASSY ROME  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6000

C O N F I D E N T I A L MILAN 0756

EO: 11652 GDS  
TAGS: PINT, IT  
SUBJECT: MONTANELLI ASSESSES POST ELECTION SITUATION

SUMMARY. PEPPERLY ANTI-CLERICAL DIRECTOR OF ITALY'S MAJOR CONSERVATIVE DAILY, INDRO MONTANELLI SEES LIGHT AT END OF TUNNEL FOLLOWING WEEK-END ELECTIONS. HIS HOPES CENTER ON SOCIALIST LEADER CRAXI AND DC YOUNG ANTI-COMMUNISTS GROUPEE IN THE HUNDRED LED BY MAZZOTTA. END SUMMARY.

1. MONTANELLI SAYS HE SURPRISED AT EXTENT OF DC GAINS WHICH HE ATTRIBUTES TO SHIFT FROM PCI. SIMILARLY PCI LOSSES EXCEED HIS EXPECTATIONS AND HE THINKS BERLINGUER IN SERIOUS TROUBLE. BEST NEWS, THOUGH, WAS PSI SHOWING WHICH BETTER THAN HE EXPECTED AFTER CRAXI EFFORTS TO MAKE A DEAL FOR MORO RELEASE. MONTANELLI WHO WAS RIGOROUSLY OPPOSED TO ANY CONCESSIONS TO RELEASE MORO, CONCLUDED THAT CRAXI BENEFITED FROM HUMANITARIAN SYMPTAHY.

2. DC NOW FACED WITH CHOICE OF SUCCESSOR TO MORO. MONTANELLI CLAIMED ANDREOTTI DOMINATED PARTY. HE HAD NEVER WAVERED ON MORO CASE AND TODAY COULD HAVE PRESIDENCY OF REPUBLIC OR HEAD OF PARTY. HE WANTED TO LEAVE PM POST, ACCORDING TO MONTANELLI. ONE THING WAS CLEAR AND UNLAMENTED, WITH MORO GONE, MAJOR BACKER  
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OF COMPROMESSO STORICO ALSO GONE. NO ONE ELSE IN DC COULD HOLD IT TOGETHER TO COOPERATE WITH PCI AS MORO HAD. MEANWHILE, BEHIND SCENES FORMER MILAN PROVINCIAL SECRETARY ROBERTO MAZZOTTA AND MARIO SEGNI WERE BUSY RE-BUILDING THE HUNDRED, MONTANELLI EXCORIATED DE CAROLIS AND MADE CLEAR THAT HE IS OUT OF THE NEW MAZZOTTA-SEGNI EFFORT FOR WHICH MONTANELLI HAS MUCH HOPE.

3. PCI HAD TAKEN LICKING. BERLINGUER COULD WELL BE OUT IN NEXT FEW MONTHS. HIS APPROACH HAD COST PCI A SERIOUS DEFEAT ALTHOUGH NO ONE WOULD TRY TO BRING DOWN ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT. AS FAR AS MONTANELLI WAS CONCERNED, PCI REVERSION TO HARD LINE WAS LIKELY AND DESIRABLE. IT WOULD LEAD TO CONFLICT IN ITALY. MEN WOULD BE KILLED. BUT ITALY COULD NOT SHAKE OFF THREAT OF LEFT WITHOUT PAYING A HIGH PRICE TO DO SO. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, BERLINGUER SURVIVED AND THE PCI CONTINUED ITS PRESENT MODERATE LINE, THAT WOULD CHANGE ENTIRE PICTURE.

4. MONTANELLI'S MAIN HOPE CENTERS ON CRAXI. HE CONSIDERS HIM ABLE, INTELLIGENT, ANTI-COMMUNIST AND RIDING HIGH IN PSI. CRAXI HAD OFFERED TO CREATE NEW CENTER/LEFT LAY PARTY GROUPING GIVING UP WORD SOCIALIST, IF PLI AND OTHERS WOULD AGREE. ZANONI, MONTANELLI'S DEPUTY, SENATORR BETTIZA AND CRAXI WERE LUNCHING MAY 17 TO TRY TO SELL IDEA TO ZANONE. MONTANELLI DOUBTED MIRACLE COULD BE BROUGHT OFF, BUT HE WAS EAGERLY BACKING IT.

5. MONTANELLI WAS SURPRISINGLY SILENT ON BRIGATE ROSSE. HE SAID THEY HAD MADE ERROR IN GOING FOR MORO SINCE THERE WAS NOW NOWHERE TO ESCALATE. WHAT ITALIAN PRISONER COULD GIVE THEM GREATER LEVERAGE?

6. AS FOR HIS PAPER II GIORNALE, IT HAS BEEN VICTIM OF SERIES OF STRIKES CALLED BY PRINTERS IN REACTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT THAT II GIORNALE SHIFTING ITS PRINTING TO PRIVATE PRINTER  
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(IRONICALLY SAME WHO PRINTS LEFT-WING LA REPUBBLICA). SHIFT WOULD TAKE PLACE END OF JUNE TO NEW PHOTO-COMPOSITION AND OFFSET EQUIPMENT WHICH WOULD SAVE GIORNALE ABOUT 700 MILLION LIRE YEARLY. WE HAVE KNOWN OF THIS PROJECT BACKED BY BIG DC REAL ESTATE WHELLER-DEALER BERLUSCONI AND USING US MADE EQUIPMENT. PROBLEM HAS BEEN HOW TO MAKE TRANSITION WITHOUT TOO GREAT DISRUPTION. MONTANELLI NOW SAYS HE EXPECTS IT TO GO THROUGH AS PLANNED. FINA

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**TAGS:** PINT, IT, (MONTANELLI, INDRO)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014